

Golden Anniversary Class to Be Graduated

BY TIM O'DONNELL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

As members of Torrance High School's graduating class of 1967 walk up to receive their diplomas, chances are they'll be thinking more about the all-night party to follow than of the weight of the occasion. But perhaps some of them will recall the fact that theirs is the 50th graduating class in the history of the school.

The past 50 years at Torrance High have seen two world wars and post-war eras, a depression, the great stock market crash, and an earthquake that threatened to level the school.

They have also seen war

heroes, doctors, nurses, attorneys, politicians, and teachers, 25 of whom have returned to teach in the Torrance school district.

Past Torrance graduation lists are dotted with names of prominent citizens in this area. Associated Student Body presidents who have made good include:

- Karl Von Hagan, first president of the ASB, who is now one of the world's top neurological surgeons, and the chairman of the Neurology Department at USC.
- Albert Isen, mayor of Torrance, who has conducted a law practice in this city since his graduation from USC in 1930.

- Lou Zamperini, former Olympian, whose book, "Devil at My Heels," describes his eventful life from his youth in Torrance to his interscholastic mile record, to his trip to the Berlin Olympics, to his near death at the hands of the Japanese in World War II, to his founding of his Victory Boys' Camp in the Angeles National Forest.
- Ray Sleepy, who is lauded as one of the greatest athletes Torrance High ever produced, and who turned to golf to win the Sunset-Fields Pro-Am Championship, Long Beach City Championship, the Palos Verdes Invitational, the Palm Springs Annual

Tournament Championship, and many more.

- Sherwood Tiernan, who received his degree from Long Beach State, worked for American Field Service, and taught in East Pakistan for the Peace Corps. Now Lt. Tiernan, he is based on Guam, where he is assigned to the USS Kretchner, which patrols the waters off the coast of Vietnam.
- Dr. Carl Ahee, principal of Torrance High, points out that longevity means nothing if a school stands still. In the last ten years, the school has introduced many new ideas in high school education.

An information handbook

has been compiled for the parents of the students, sponsored jointly by the PTA.

A creative writing magazine, Potpourri, has been a tradition since 1957. The first five issues have been compiled into Volume 1, actively financed by the student body.

An original, one-act play festival, which Dr. Ahee calls one of the most unique high school thespian activities in the nation, has been continued without interruption for 14 years.

An Art Show, initiated in 1963, adds incentive for the art student, for the school

buys the winning piece and displays it in the school.

In the past 10 years, the Baccalaureate has featured a religious leader to speak at the service.

From a situation where only three classrooms were provided curtains, Torrance High has now moved to a condition where most classrooms utilize visual aids.

Several schools in the area followed Torrance's student-faculty participation in developing a class ring which incorporates many traditions dear to Tartars.

Since Torrance High is proud of its alumni, it has begun to formulate qualifica-

tions and plans for a Tartar Hall of Fame.

"The Hall of Fame concept and its related program," explained Dr. Ahee, "should be maintained primarily as a device for inspiring students to their utmost in scholastic, social, athletic and moral intelligence, and only secondarily as a tribute to past performance."

All of the achievements of Torrance High graduates are behind them now; and no one will know better than Dr. Carl Ahee that with the handing out of the first diploma to the class of '67, he has taken a step towards a second 50 years.

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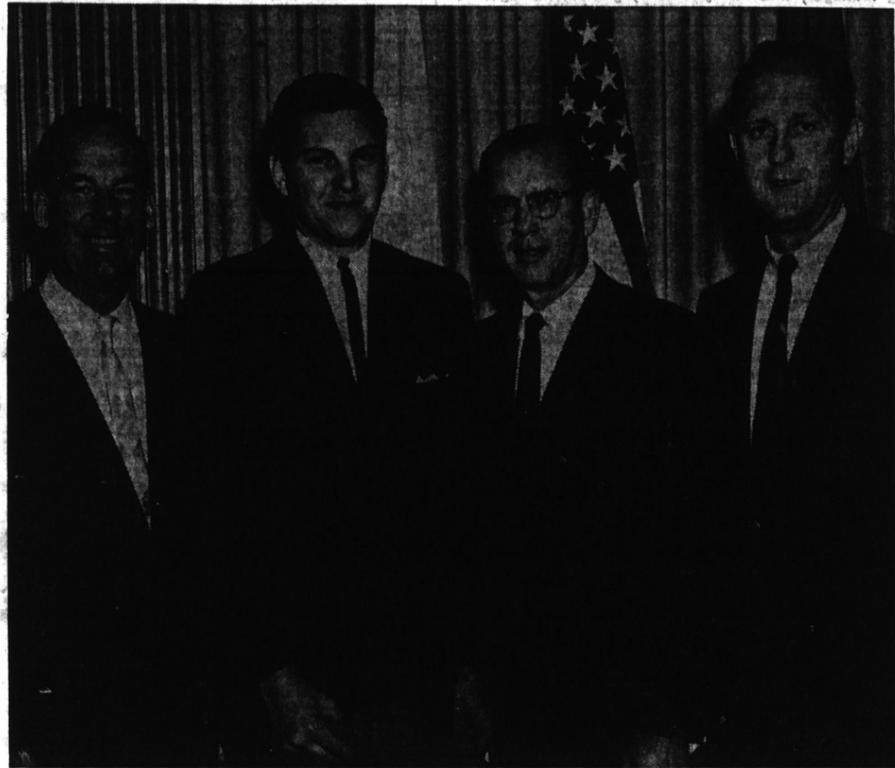


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LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD ... Raymond L. Zeigler of Torrance (second from left) was among 19 persons honored by District Attorney Evelle J. Younger (left) during Law Enforcement Recognition

Week ceremonies in Los Angeles Wednesday. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (second from right) and Torrance Councilman Ken Miller add their commendations to Zeigler during the ceremony.

Resident Honored For Aid to Police

Action Lauded By D.A.

A Torrance resident who pursued and held a burglary suspect until police could be summoned was cited this week with 19 other Southern California residents by District Attorney Evelle J. Younger during Law Enforcement Recognition Week for extraordinary aid to police fighting crime.

It was the second time Raymond L. Zeigler, 17108 Glenburn Ave., had been recognized officially for his action last fall in the pursuit and capture of a suspect who later confessed to burglary. He was cited in a Torrance City Council resolution which had been presented to him during ceremonies at the Torrance police station last month.

"THE MEANING of Law Enforcement Recognition Week," Younger said, "is that the date of citizen non-involvement has passed. It went out, perhaps, in the guilt we all felt when K. G. Genovese was stabbed to death in New York while more than 20 persons stood by and did nothing."

Zeigler's citation honored him specifically for his acts on the night of Nov. 20, 1966 when he and Mrs. Zeigler arrived home and noted that their home had been ransacked.

HEARING THE back door close, the Zeiglers looked around and saw a suspect get (See HONORED on A-2)



MRS. CELIA PONS
Granted New Honors

Mother Of Year Named

Mrs. Celia Pons, widow of an early Torrance industrialist and active supporter of many Southland philanthropic organizations, has received new honors.

She was named "Mother of the Year" at the California Home for the Aged in Reseda, receiving a plaque which carried her name in the inscription, "Your heart has answered with love and understanding."

She received the honors from Mrs. Charlotte Schurman, Beverly Hills chapter president of the California Home for the Aged, at ceremonies in Beverly Hills. Albert Stein, executive director of the organization, assisted in the presentation.

An Award of Merit citing her as the "Outstanding Mother of the Year" was presented to Mrs. Pons by the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

She was particularly cited for her outstanding service to the Children's Aid Auxiliary at ceremonies honoring her.

Mrs. Al (Toby) Lustig, president of the Children's Aid Auxiliary, presented the Award of Merit to Mrs. Pons.

Mrs. Pons commissioned the memorial to John F. Kennedy which she donated to the city and now stands in the small park at Cabrillo and Sartori in downtown Torrance. She has resided here for 30 years.

At Torrance Schools

Baccalaureate Services Set

Baccalaureate services for the graduating classes at all four Torrance high schools will be conducted this afternoon.

The Rev. Elmer E. Christensen of Christ the King Lutheran Church will be the featured speaker at North High School Services, scheduled at 2 p.m., will be held in the school stadium. The Rev. Dennis Hendon of the Crenshaw Baptist Church will deliver the invocation and benediction.

Services at Torrance High will begin at 3 o'clock in the auditorium. The Rev. H. Milton Sippel of the First Christian Church will be the principal speaker.

The Rev. Hugh Percy, rector of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, will lead the prayer and the Rev. John P. Cremins, pastor of Nativity Catholic Church, will give the invocation and benediction.

The Rev. Leslie C. Ashford of Del Amo Christian Church will be the principal speaker at West High, where services will begin at 3 p.m. The Rev. Leland Pisel of the First Baptist Church of El Nido will give the invocation and benediction.

Two Youths Graduate Irvine

Two Torrance youths received bachelor's degrees Saturday during the first formal commencement exercises at the University of California at Irvine.

Robert F. Bauman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Bauman of 1784 Calamar Ave., and John D. Cambon, son of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Cambon of 1308 Kornblum Ave., received their degrees on the Orange County campus.

Both are 1962 graduates of Torrance High School. Bauman, a mathematics major, attended El Camino and Cal Lutheran Colleges before transferring to Irvine campus. Cambon attended Cal State Long Beach and the University of California at Los Angeles. He majored in economics.

Adults to Be Graduated

Members of Torrance's Adult Education classes will lead off graduation week when they receive diplomas in ceremonies scheduled for Monday evening. Dr. Owen Griffith, who was named to the Board of Education last Monday night, will get his first assignment as he helps Dr. Albert N. Posner, assistant superintendent, and the other board members with the traditional diploma services. High school graduation exercises will be held at the schools on Wednesday evening and eighth grade graduations will be held on Thursday evening.

Fire Victim Succumbs

Forty-one-year-old Theodore E. Asperen, who received third degree burns over 50 per cent of his body in a fire at his home a week ago succumbed at Torrance Memorial Hospital Friday afternoon. Asperen was found in his home at 619 Acacia Ave. after neighbors noticed smoke coming from the house and called firemen. He apparently had been asleep on the couch when the fire started. Firemen found him near the back door of the house. He was home alone at the time, firemen reported.

TEA Elects Officers For 67-68

Keith Weidman, communication skills project teacher at Fern-Greenwood School, was installed as president of the 1,200-member Torrance Education Association (TEA) at a dinner in his honor at the Palms Restaurant.

Officers installed to serve with Weidman are Darrel Nelms of Torrance Elementary School, vice president; Mary Barret of Victor Elementary School, secretary; and David McDonnell of Meadow Parks School, treasurer.

Weidman has been in the Torrance School District since 1957 and has been active in the professional association since that time.

In addition to his newly-assumed duties as head of the teachers group, he is serving as chairman of the Torrance Unified School District Negotiations Council. He is a member of the California Teachers Association State Council Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom.

Narbonne Grad Gets Master's

William E. Rau, a 1960 graduate of Narbonne High School, received a master's degree in history yesterday during the first formal commencement exercises at U.C. Irvine.

Rau, of 25214 Bigelow Road, was one of 192 students to be graduated from the new University campus. Fourteen degrees were awarded at UCI last year.

Expanded Toll-Free Area Offered Phone Customers

An experimental service which will greatly expand the toll-free calling area of General Telephone Co.'s South Bay residential customers will be inaugurated July 1, Harold R. Nelms, local division manager, has announced.

The program—Customized Expanded Residential Telephone Service—will enable residential customers to make as many calls as he wishes to specific geographic areas of his own selection, Nelms said.

Under the plan, customers will be billed according to a pre-determined monthly or hourly rate—which the customer may select from three options—rather than by the number of message units he has incurred.

THE experimental service will be offered telephone subscribers with 371 through 379, 370, and 541 to 545 prefixes. It'll be offered on a 1-year trial basis to determine customer acceptance and use.

"We believe," Nelms said, "that the customer will realize some definite benefits from the program and that it will meet with his approval. As he becomes more familiar with the program, he will find it offers him greater flexibility and opens the way to lower telephone costs, especially for those who regularly make a number of toll calls."

UNDER THE first option, customers may make toll-free calls to the 39 or EX 1, 7, and 8, 823, and 828 prefixes in

the Mar Vista area; to the 641, 645, 670 through 674, and the 677 prefixes in Inglewood; and to the 750 through 759, 321, 678, 770, 772 and 776 through 778 prefixes in Morningside Park and adjoining sections of Los Angeles.

Cost of the option would be \$3.10 per month, Nelms said.

A second option would permit customers to obtain toll-free calling to one or more of 59 different geographic areas in the Southland. The areas are scattered between Thousand Oaks, Pasadena,

Ontario, and Laguna Beach and include all points in between.

ADDING ONE or more of the areas would cost an extra \$3.35 per month; two areas would add \$6.20 to the monthly rate. Additional areas would cost \$2.35 per month.

The third option would permit customers to place toll-free calls to virtually all of the metropolitan Los Angeles area for a flat rate of \$28.10 per month or an hourly rate of \$3.15 per hour.

NEW DIRECTORY ... A new Industrial Directory, which lists information about major industries in Torrance, now is available at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Examining the first copies of the directory are (from left) J. Walker Owens, general manager of the chamber; Bonnie Sinclair, Chamber secretary; and Don H. Hyde, president. In addition to location and telephone number, the new book gives information about the number of employees and principal products.

